

Serial No. 10/730,091

Attorney Docket No. 01-529

REMARKS

In part 12 of the Office Action Summary, none of the boxes are checked. However, the applicants filed a certified copy of the priority document on 9 December 2003, as indicated on the filing transmittal for this application. The PAIR system shows that the priority document was received. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and notice that the certified copy of the priority document has been received.

A form PTO 1449 was filed on 9 December 2003, including an "Other Reference" titled "DENSO Technology Control Dept., 'Operation of a new model vehicle ...'." However, the copy of the form PTO-1449 received with the office action omits the examiner's initials for this reference. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request an initialed copy of the form PTO-1449 with this "Other Reference" initialed.

Claims 1, 2, 4-10 are pending. Claim 3 has been canceled. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,049,940, Ieda ("Ieda"). To overcome the citation of Ieda, applicants submit herewith a verified English translation of the document, JP 2002-368911, to which priority is claimed. Ieda was filed on 24 June 2003, whereas the priority document JP 2002-368911 was filed on 19 December 2002. Because the priority was timely perfected, and because a verified English translation of the priority document is submitted herewith, showing the effective filing date to be prior to Ieda, it is respectfully requested that the rejection relying on Ieda be withdrawn.

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Claims 1, 2, and 5-10 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,552,649, Okada ("Okada") and JP Patent No. 9,021,258, Tomoo ("Tomoo"). Insofar as the rejection can be applied to the claims as amended, the rejection is respectfully traversed for reasons including those provided below by way of example.

Dependent claim 3 is not subject to this rejection, and, with the filing of the verified English translation of the priority document, claim 3 is allowable over the references. Independent claims 1 and 8 are amended to incorporate dependent claim 3, and claim 3 has been canceled. It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 8 are allowable.

With respect to the rejected dependent claims, applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable not only by virtue of their dependency from independent claims 1 and 8, but also because of additional features they recite in combination.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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